
2.1.1.5 Land Use and Ownership

As seen in Figures 9 and 10, and Table 5, more than 90 percent of the lands within the subbasin are used as rangelands. Nearly all the remaining lands are in the confined canyon bottoms, which are classified as riparian areas and water. A very small portion of the subbasin is used for cropland agriculture (2.8 percent), with most of this (63.21 percent) under sprinkler irrigation.

Table 5. LAND USE IN THE BRUNEAU RIVER SUBBASIN (USEPA 1998)

Land Use Type	Percent of Total Area
Range	90.6
Agricultural	2.8
Riparian/Water	6.6

The subbasin in Idaho lies entirely within Owyhee County. Privately owned lands (6.9 percent of the subbasin) are essentially the same lands that are used for agriculture. The majority of the remainder (84.3 percent of the subbasin) is managed by the USBLM. These are treeless rangelands. Scattered state endowment lands (sections 16 and 36), under the management of IDL comprise 5.5 percent of the subbasin. A small portion of the subbasin (1.6 percent) is a military reservation. Another small area in the southwestern portion (in Idaho) of the subbasin lands is part of the Duck Valley Reservation administered by the Shoshone-Piaute Tribe. Highway 51 is the main access through the subbasin. This highway crosses the northern-most portions of the subbasin and heads southbound down the western portion of the subbasin. The only other paved road in the subbasin is the Rogerson cutoff that connects the town of Rogerson and the Three Creek/Murphy Hot Springs area. The remainder of the subbasin is covered with numerous dirt and gravel roads, most of which are not maintained (see Figure 11).

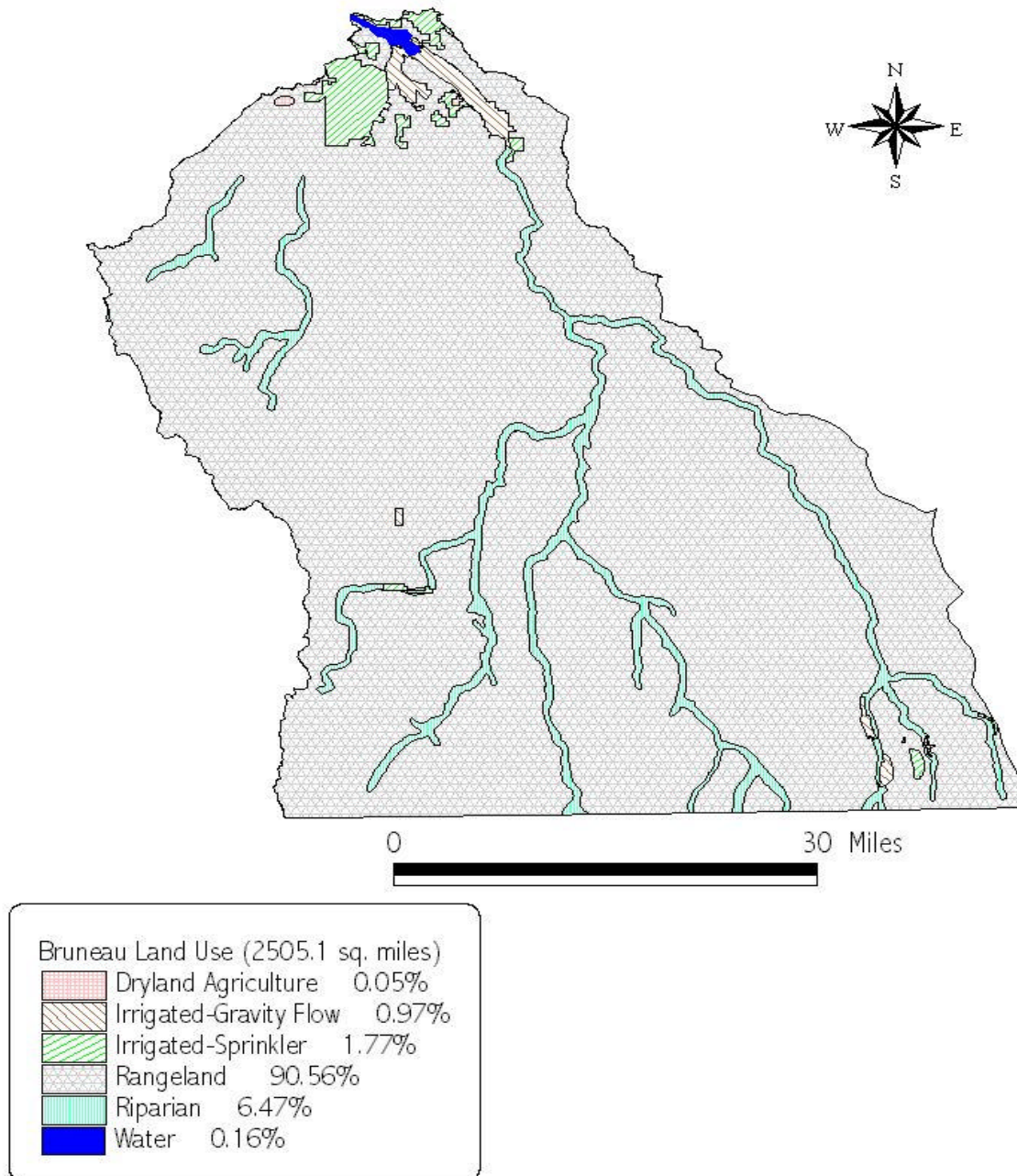
2.1.1.6 Population

The population in Owyhee County was about 8,392 in 1990 (www.idoc.state.id.us 2000) and was estimated at 10,227 in 1998. The majority of the county population lives outside of the subbasin. For example, in 1998, the Homedale and Marsing populations were estimated at 3,311, most other towns were too small to be listed. The Bruneau SCD, which covers most of the subbasin, estimates the population of the district at 2,000 full time residents (McBride 2000). The largest municipality in the subbasin is the town of Bruneau. Other small towns include Grassmere, Three Creek, and Murphy Hot Springs (Figure 12). The underlying foundation for economic activity in the area is agriculture, which is mainly derived from ranching and farming.

Most of the initial agricultural activity in the area was ranching and grazing. Decreed surface water rights for irrigation in the Bruneau area began in 1875, while decreed stock watering rights began in 1860. In the Three Creek area, the first recorded stock water right was in 1871. In 1885, the first irrigation water right was filed.

Recreation is an important water-related industry of the Bruneau River and Jarbidge River reaches. These rivers provide for varied recreational experiences. Whitewater rafting and kayaking occur in the spring during high water. There are several rafting services in the town of Bruneau that ferry rafters to and from launching and takeout points.

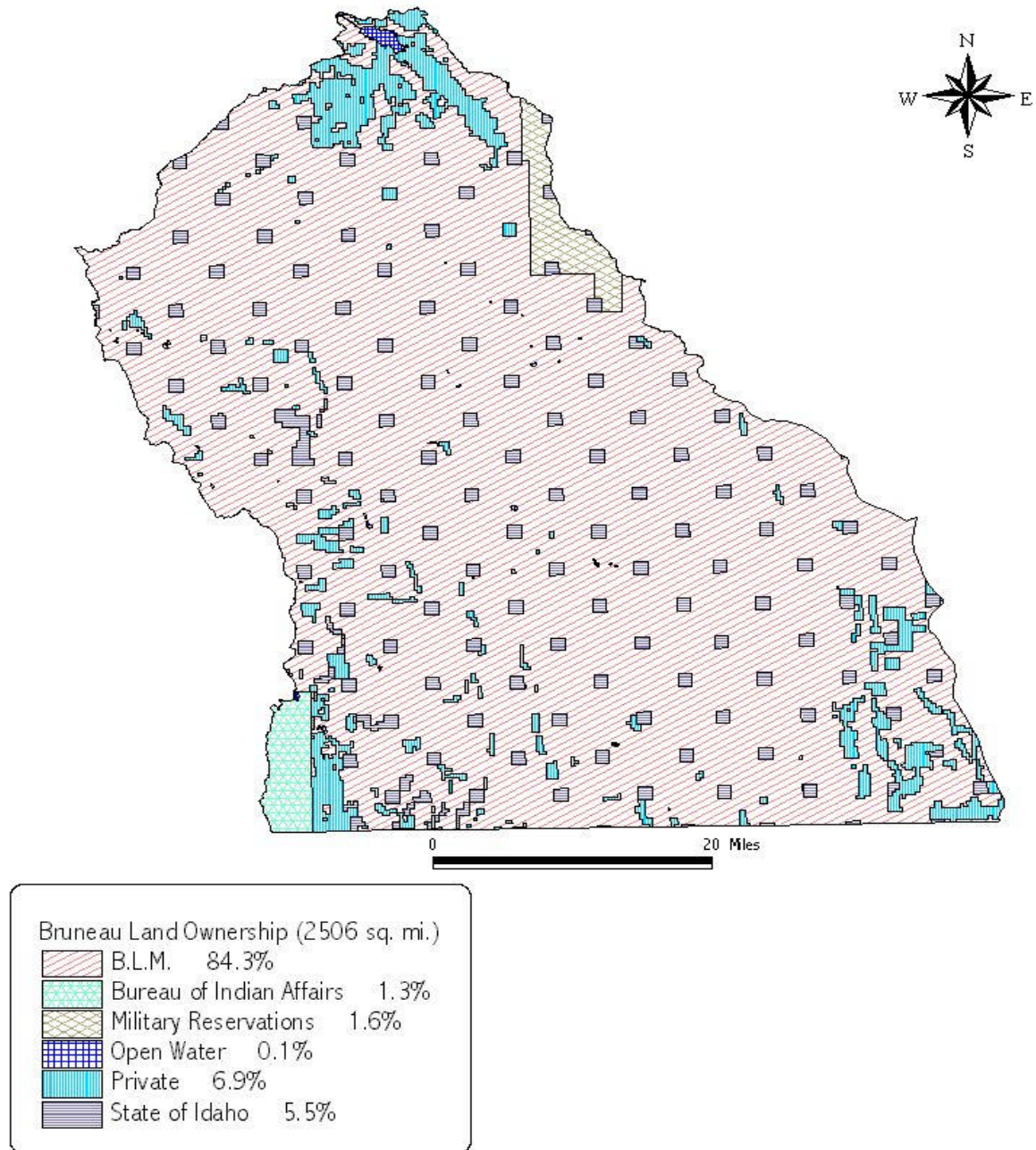
Bruneau River Subbasin Land Use



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Figure 9. Land use of the Bruneau River Subbasin

Bruneau River Subbasin Land Ownership

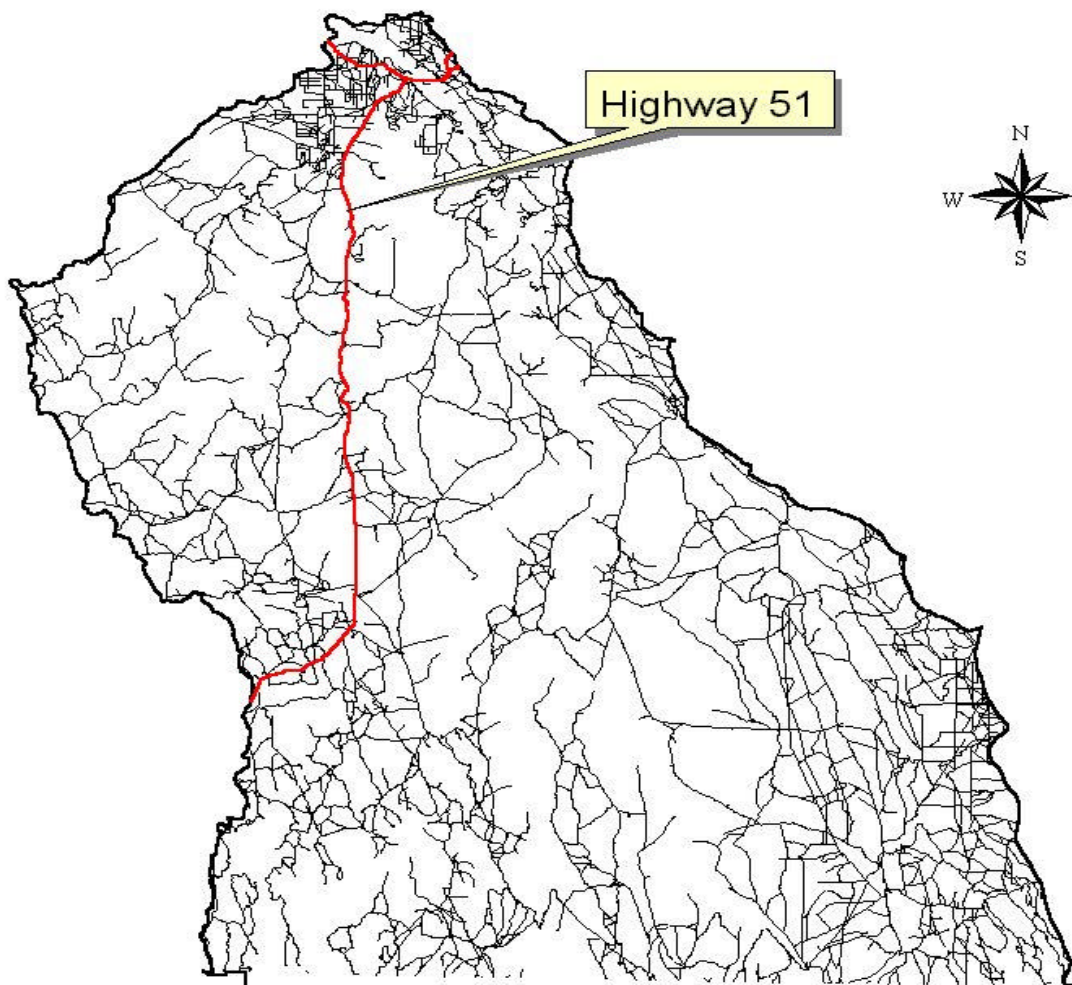





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Figure 10. Land Ownership of the Bruneau River Subbasin

Bruneau River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL

Bruneau River Subbasin Dirt and Gravel Road System

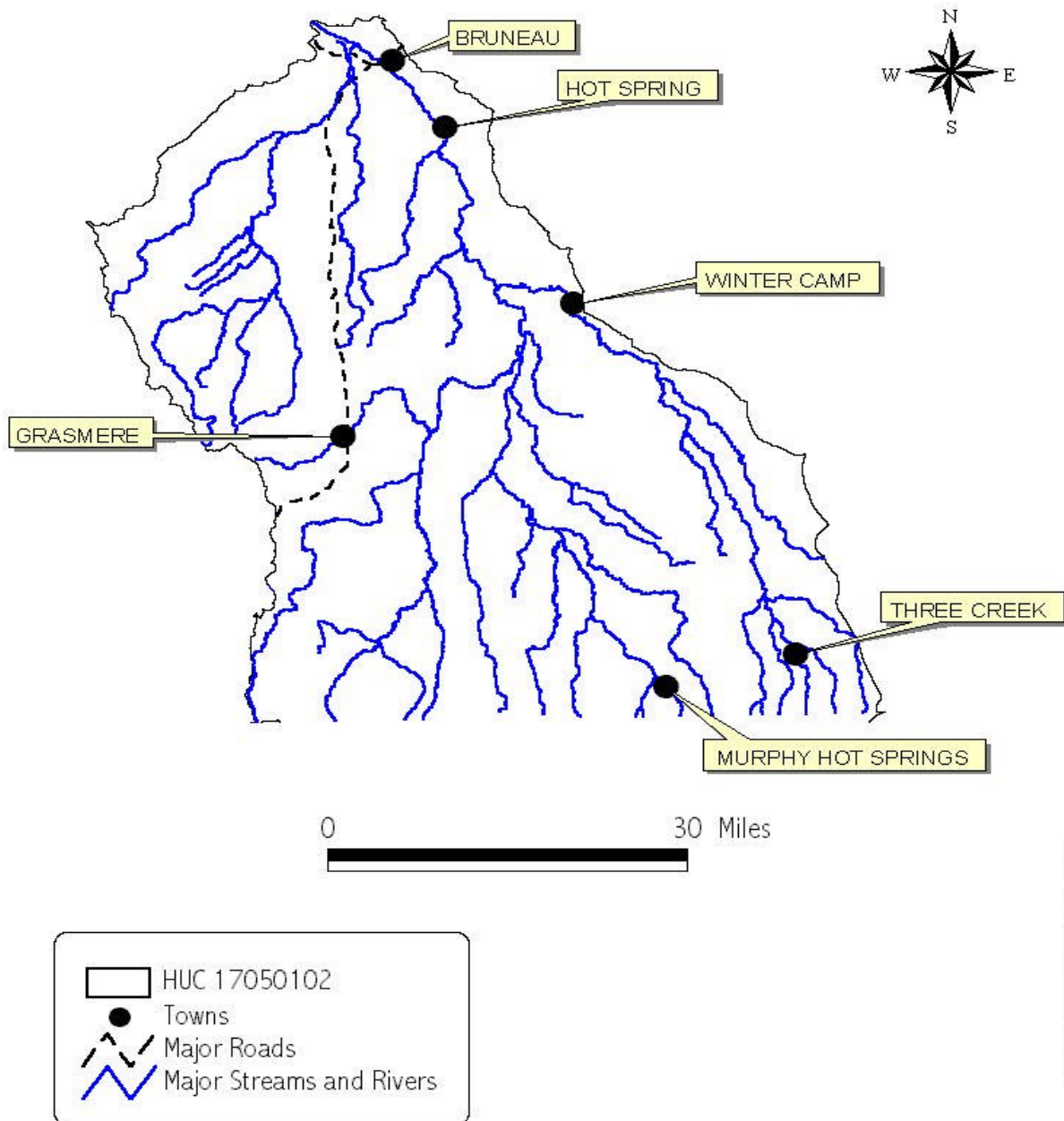


 Major Roads
 Secondary Roads
 Bruneau River Subbasin

Prepared by Rob Sharpnack - February 2000

Figure 11. Dirt and Gravel Road System of the Bruneau River Subbasin.

Bruneau River Subbasin Population Centers



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Figure 12. Population Centers of the Bruneau River Subbasin.